



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 26, 2004

For Information Contact Public Affairs
HARRIET BERNICK
Telephone: (602) 514-7736
Pager: (602) 356-0004

WHITERIVER MAN SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR FATAL ALCOHOL RELATED CAR CRASH

PHOENIX, ARIZONA —The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona, announced that on January 22, 2004, Edmund Quintero, DOB 8/10/69, of Whiteriver, Arizona, was sentenced to 37 months in a federal prison, by Chief United States District Judge Stephen M. McNamee, in Phoenix, Arizona in connection with a double fatality accident that occurred on June 19, 2002. He will be placed on 3 years of supervised release upon his release from prison. While on supervised release he will be monitored by the United State's Adult Probation Office.

On June 19, 2002, the defendant, a member of the White Mountain Apache Indian Tribe, purchased one case of Budweiser beer at a liquor store. He was traveling with three children, one a niece and another a nephew, to a residence at one of the housing units in Whiteriver, Arizona. He drank a significant number of beers and consumed cocaine.

At some point after drinking the alcohol, he decided to take the children home. He left the house where he had been drinking, and drove north on State Route 73. He reached an intersection and attempted to make a left turn. He turned in front of another vehicle that was traveling southbound on State Route 73,

(MORE)

which has a posted speed limit of 45 mph. The oncoming car was unable to stop and the defendant collided with the second car. The two child victims, 12 year-old Fannessia Quintero and 5-year old Kalem Gregg, both members of the White Mountain Apache Indian Tribe, had been riding in the bed of the defendant's pickup and were ejected upon impact. They died as a result of injuries they suffered when they hit the ground. A passenger in the second vehicle, Mariddie Colelay, also a member of the White Mountain Apache Indian Tribe, suffered serious bodily injuries including a fractured hip, broken ribs and a head injury as a result of the accident. The intersection was located on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation.

Tests performed on the blood of the defendant revealed trace amounts of cocaine and a blood alcohol level of .288%. The legal level in the State of Arizona is .08%.

On a prior occasion, the defendant had been convicted of the state offense of DUI on June 2, 1998, in the Pinetop Justice Court, in Pinetop, Arizona.

The defendant pled guilty to three counts of Assault Resulting in Serious Bodily Injury on October 24, 2003.

The investigation in this case was conducted by the White Mountain Apache Tribal Police Department, the Arizona Department of Public Safety and the Fort Apache Agency of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

The prosecution was handled by Vincent Q. Kirby, Assistant United States Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix, Arizona.

CASE NUMBER: CR-03-588-PCT-SMM
RELEASE NUMBER: 2004-012

#